

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A n~~Network~~ status reporting method, for reporting in a communications network a network status information to a data source ~~(DSRC)~~ with an adaptive transmission rate in order to enable said data source ~~(DSRC)~~ to adapt said transmission rate based on said network status information, said communications network further ~~containing~~ comprising at least one intermediate network node ~~(INN)~~, and a data sink ~~(DSNK)~~, ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ wherein only said data sink ~~(DSNK)~~ reports to said data source ~~(DSRC)~~ on said network a status information of said communications network in its neighbourhood, and no intermediate network node ~~(INN)~~ reports to said data source ~~(DSRC)~~ on said network status information of said communications network.

2. (Currently Amended) A c~~Communications~~ network comprising:

at least one data source ~~(DSRC)~~ with an adaptive transmission rate;

at least one intermediate node; and

at least one data sink ~~(DSNK)~~,

wherein said data source ~~(DSRC)~~ ~~being able to adapt~~ said transmission rate on the basis of network status information, ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ and wherein

only said data sink (~~DSNK~~) is able to report said network status information of said communications network in its neighbourhood to said data source (~~DSRC~~) and no intermediate node is able to report network status information to said data source (~~DSRC~~).

3. (Currently Amended) Communications network, according to claim 2, wherein ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ said data sink (~~DSNK~~) is a line termination in an access network of said communications network.

4. (Currently Amended) Communications network, according to claim 2, ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ wherein said data sink (~~DSNK~~) is a network termination in an access network of said communications network.

5. (Currently Amended) Communications network, according to claim 3, wherein ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ said network status information is a capacity of a link between a network termination and a line termination in said access network of said communications network.

6. (Currently Amended) The dData source (~~DSRC~~) adapted to be used in the communications network according to claim 2.

7. (Currently Amended) The dData sink (~~DSNK~~) adapted to be used in the communications network according to claim 2.

8. (Currently Amended) The dData source (~~DSRC~~) according to claim 6, wherein ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ said data source (~~DSRC~~) is adapted to request said data sink (~~DSNK~~) to report to said data source (~~DSRC~~) on said network status information of said communications network.

9. (Currently Amended) Data sink (~~DSNK~~) according to claim 7, ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ wherein said data sink (~~DSNK~~) is adapted to regularly report to said data source (~~DSRC~~) on said network status information of said communications network.

10. (New) A communications system comprising:

a data source with an adaptive transmission rate;

a line termination element;

a network termination element connected to the line termination element via a first network; and

at least one intermediate node connecting the data source to the line termination element via a second network;

wherein the data source adapts the transmission rate on the basis of a network status reported by at least one of the line termination element and the network termination element, and wherein the network status is determined based on a quality of signal of the first network only.

11. (New) The communications system according to claim 10, wherein the first network is of a different type than the second network, and comprise a heterogeneous network system.

12. (New) The communications system according to claim 10, wherein the line termination element and the network termination element negotiate a transmission rate for the first network, and wherein one of the line termination element and the network termination element reports the network status only when the transmission rate in the first network is changed.

13. (New) The communication system according to claim 12, wherein the network termination element detects an influence of environmental conditions on the transmission rate of the first network and, based on the detected influence, the network termination element and the line termination element re-negotiate the transmission rate.

14. (New) The communication system according to claim 10, wherein the first network comprises a digital subscriber line and wherein the second network comprises a frame relay network, and wherein the network termination element comprises a modem and the line termination element comprises a multiplexer.

15. (New) A network status reporting method, for reporting in a communications network, comprising:

a data sink reporting to a data source a status of a segment of said communications network near said data sink;

at least one intermediate network node transmitting said report; and

said data source adjusting transmission rate based on said received report,

wherein only said data sink reports to said data source on said status of said segment of said communications network near said data sink, and none of said at least one intermediate network node reports to said data source on said network status of a segment of said communications network near said at least one intermediate network node.